

Appl. No. : 10/705,259
Filed : November 10, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 stand rejected. Applicants have canceled Claims 4, 5, and 9. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12 and added Claims 13-21. Thus, Claims 1-3, 6-8, and 10-21 are pending in the application and are presented for examination in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Statutory Double Patenting Rejection

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-12 as claiming the same invention as that of Claims 1-12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,663,600. Applicants have amended or canceled the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive with the claims of the '600 patent.

Applicants note that Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, and 12 recite, among other limitations, that the retainer includes an adhesive spot. As noted in the Examiner's reasons for allowance of the parent patent application (09/630,582), "the prior art does not teach the retainer comprising an adhesive spot." Applicants accordingly respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable in their present form for at least that reason.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the noted rejections and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if an issue requires clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve any such issue promptly.


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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 3/25/05

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